

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07131 051640Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----076834 051643Z /50
O 051606Z JUN 78 ZFF5 RUEADWW
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3464
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7131

EXDIS -- DIST AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, IS, US, EG
SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF DAYAN'S AND BEGIN'S POSITION CONCERNING
"MINOR BORDER MODIFICATIONS"

REF: A) TEL AVIV 7068, B) TEL AVIV 5951, C) TEL AVIV 6541

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ISRAELI CABINET MEETING ENDED
JUNE 4 ELY RUBENSTEIN, DAYAN'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT,
TELEPHONED ME WITH A MESSAGE FROM DAYAN WHICH HE
CHARACTERIZED AS ALSO BEING SENT ON BEGIN'S BEHALF.

2. DAYAN WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS NO MIS-
UNDERSTANDING ON OUR PART ABOUT THE ISRAELI POSITION
CONCERNING "MINOR BORDER MODIFICATIONS" ON THE WEST BANK.
(EVIDENTLY THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF THIS IN THE
CABINET MEETING AS A RESULT OF DAYAN'S REPORTING ON THE
INFORMATION I HAD CONVEYED TO HIM MAY 19 ABOUT OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF SADAT'S POSITIONS (REF C).) RUBENSTEIN
RECALLED THAT WHEN I HAD MET WITH DAYAN MAY 5 (REF B)
HE HAD ASKED US TO TRY TO OBTAIN "CLARIFICATION" ON
FOUR POINTS: ONE OF WHICH WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
SADAT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS CALLING FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL

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FROM THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER
HAD CHARACTERIZED TO BEGIN IN MARCH AS BEING SADAT'S REAL, PRIVATE
POSITION: I.E., THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT "MINOR
MODIFICATIONS" IN THE WEST BANK BORDERS FOR SECURITY REASONS.
RUBENSTEIN RECALLED THAT IN MY RESPONSE TO DAYAN ON
MAY 19 I HAD AGAIN AFFIRMED THAT SADAT HAS TOLD US
PRIVATELY HE CAN ACCEPT BORDER MODIFICATIONS IN A FINAL

WEST BANK SETTLEMENT, ALWAYS USING THE ADJECTIVE "MINOR" TO QUALIFY THIS STATEMENT. DAYAN WANTED IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FACT THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT DID NOT RPT NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF MINOR BORDER MODIFICATIONS. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POSITION, SAID RUBENSTEIN, CONTINUED TO BE BASED SOLELY ON BEGIN'S SELF-RULE PROPOSALS FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

3. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WHAT DAYAN HAD SAID IN WASHINGTON TO SECRETARY VANCE IN APRIL, WHAT ROY ATHERTON HAD REPORTED DURING THOSE MEETINGS AS SADAT'S VIEWS, AND THE TWO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ME AND DAYAN ON MAY 5 AND MAY 19. OUR RECOLLECTION OF THESE CONVERSATIONS WAS FULLY IN AGREEMENT. I THEN SAID THAT I WOULD OF COURSE TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON AS REQUESTED. HOWEVER, I SAID I DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON OUR PART ABOUT THE ISRAELI POSITION. WE HAD UNDERSTOOD DAYAN'S FOUR QUESTIONS AS BEING AN ATTEMPT TO ELICIT CLARIFICATION THROUGH US OF SADAT'S POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY SEEMED TO DIVERGE IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC. I SAID I DID NOT BELIEVE ANY U.S. OFFICIAL HAD INTERPRETED DAYAN'S QUESTION AS SUGGESTING THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED "MINOR MODIFICATIONS" OR HAD INDEED CHANGED ITS POSITION IN SUPPORT OF BEGIN'S
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SELF-RULE PLAN AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARD THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. RUBENSTEIN SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT AND WOULD TELL DAYAN AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

4. AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION RUBENSTEIN CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST ONE MORE CABINET MEETING TO COMPLETE DEBATE AND DECISION OVER THE ANSWERS TO THE U.S. QUESTIONS. HE ANTICIPATED IT WOULD BE LIKELY THAT THE DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, RATHER THAN DURING THE WEEK.
LEWIS

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NNN

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